★★★

1858 The Daily Colonist. 1959

"An Independent Newspaper, The Organ of No Clique or Party"

SETH HALTON, Publisher — SANDHAM GRAVES, Editor-in-Chief

Published every morning except Monday by the Colonist Publishers Ltd. at 2631 Douglas Street, Victoria, B.C.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1959

Reform at a Price

LATIN American newspapers in Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Argentina, Costa Rica and elsewhere were calling yesterday for a halt to the military executions of hundreds of Batista followers in the successful Cuban revolt. Fidel Castro, whose supporters have taken over the administration of the country, meanwhile was reported steaming up a public rally at Havana where he said he would ask an audience of 500,000 Cubans to "approve of the executions." "Four hundred and fifty will die" Castro asserted, before the blood-letting comes to an end. Meanwhile between 5,000 and 6,000 Batista followers are lodged in Castro-dominated jails, awaiting "trial" on similar charges.

Cuba will pay dearly for its political and social reforms if they are to be bought at such a price. Around the world everywhere the Cuban shootings of men who are now prisoners are being watched intently. East of the iron curtain the action probably will be taken as justification of what happened in Hungary under Soviet domination. In the free world the Castro type of revenge is being received with horror. Nor was there anything in Castro's victory to require such retaliation; he and his followers had won their battle with the collapse of the Batista forces and the flight of Batista himself.

One does not know of any reform in human conditions that begins with the needless, callous and unjustified taking of lives. At the very worst these several thousand "prisoners of the revolution" would be entitled to a fair and open hearing before the duly established courts of the land. Before military juntas, where obviously accusation alone is enough to condemn, their lives do not appear to weigh in the scale at all. More than 205 prisoners have already died at the hands of Castro's firing squads and, if the revolutionary leader himself is to be credited, that number will be doubled. Where will it end?

Most Canadians would be prepared to watch Latin-American political upsets without comment, but there has been something in the cold brutality of the insurrectionist victory which has chilled every democratic nation. It is bloodstained "liberation" that the victors will achieve by such means. To call that freedom or reform would be to throw away the meaning of the words.

Filling His Shoes

ONE of the biggest problems facing the government following on the regrettable death of Hon. Gordon Sloan is that of finding a successor. In the long range view of human affairs it may be true that no one is indispensable, but in this particular instance there is no one man in sight of similar stature. Mr. Sloan was unique because of the immense prestige attached to his name and the unparalled knowledge stemming from his masterly inquiries into forest management.

Other men there are with long-time experience of forestry, both theoretical and practical. The industry itself contains men of ability and high attainment, but none of these could bring to the post of forest adviser the judicial outlook of the former chief justice. Nor could he have the appearance of neutrality which, apart from his personal quality of mind, was one of Mr. Sloan's greatest assets. It is the loss of this factor —the widespread public confidence in his impartiality—that makes the situation difficult for the government and indeed for any successor.

It is doubly unfortunate that Mr. Sloan's death should come so soon after he had assumed the position of chief adviser on all matters of forestry management. He could searcely have managed to set the pattern of administration that might have been more easily followed, for he was in the midst of translating into settled courses the recommendations his famous studies had invoked. Insufficient time had elapsed to permit any associate to absorb knowledge of the policies he had in mind, except perhaps in sketchy outline.

It might well be that, lacking any immediate successor with the seeming capacity to fill Mr. Sloan's place, the responsibility for forest management licences and related matters will fall back again directly upon the forestry department. The competent officials therein at least have the Sloan reports and something of his ideas to guide them, and the lessons of recent upheavals in connection with forestry matters will not have been lost on provincial authorities. Something of a crucial decision nevertheless devolves on the government in view of the gap left by the death of Mr. Sloan.

Police Work Suffering

COMMISSIONER L. H. Nicholson of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in his annual report to Parliament, has found it necessary once again to draw attention to demands made on the force for the services of officers for occasions having little or no connection with police duty. Chiefly he is concerned about the employment of scarlet-coated officers for strictly "show" purposes, as photographers' models for hordes of tourists.

The practice is sufficiently common in Ottawa for it to be unnecessary for Commissioner Nicholson to inform Parliament in much detail; but it is fairly prevalent here and in other cities as well. Frequently requests are made for RCMP officers to be stationed at such places as ferry wharves for no purpose whatever other than that they should be gawked at and photographed by tourists. As some tourists seem to possess very few inhibitions, this experience can be painfully embarrassing for the officers. It may be good for tourist trade, but that is not the function of the RCMP.

At a time when police work is increasing throughout Canada at a pace considerably faster than numerical additions are being made to the RCMP, unnecessary detailing of members of the force as "exhibits" is wasteful; but that is not the commissioner's sole cause of concern. "I am convinced," his report states, "that morale would be affected if we permitted the uniform and reputation of the force to be capitalized on unreasonably in this respect." He points out also that where there is overemphasis of parade and show features it has to be at the expense of police work, "which is and must remain our primary function."

Tourist organizations and others should bear Commissioner Nicholson's polite but firm explanation in mind.

Interpreting the News

Leaders Draw Closer

By ALAN HARVEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

AN unexpected affinity between two commanding personalities may accelerate Franco-German reconciliation and strengthen European unity.

Amid the stilted official language of diplomatic dispatches, the impression emerges of a developing friendliness between West Germany's Konrad Adenauer and President Charles de Gaulle of France.

Few friendships would have seemed more unlikely. De Gaulle is a military man, Adenauer a confirmed civilian; their countries have fought three ferocious wars in less than a century; and both are aloof men with few if any close friends outside their families.

★ ★ ★

Yet the liking is real. The ice was broken last Sept. 14 when the two met at Colombey-les Deux Eglises, de Gaulle's country home. The initial favorable impression was strengthened Nov. 26 in a further meeting at Bad Kreuznach, a German resort town.

Reports of sympathy and understanding between the two statesmen, taken seriously by Canadian students of Europe, constitute another hopeful factor in the post-war course of Franco-German relations.

Ottawa observers said the federal republic's effort to achieve a rapprochement with its old rival, France, has been one of the "truly encouraging features" of present-day German politics.

★ ★ ★

Dr. Adenauer, it is believed, feels that it is his country's responsibility to lean over backwards in healing the old feud. He has made concessions on such nagging problems as the Saar question, and has sided with France in discussions on European unity.

Oddly, it might almost be embarrassing for Canada if Dr. Adenauer and de Gaulle become too thick.

Since the Second World War, Western Germany has espoused liberal trading policies, roughly in line with Canadian principles. There is just the barest possibility that Germany, following an indulgent line toward France, might depart from its liberal policies to a more protectionist neighbor. This would be disturbing to Canadian officials.

"Can't we do something more than stand firm?"

Thinking Aloud

". . . of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—of cabbages and kings."

By TOM TAYLOR

IF you are a Burns lover, or like some of those who will this weekend toast the "Immortal Memory" just pay him lip-service, perhaps you should look in your attic or wherever it is you keep your old, dusty, unused books.

You might come upon a "find."

Bibliophiles are always secretly hoping that some day they will fall heir, from a barrow perhaps or a 10 to 50-cent bargain counter, to a rare copy of the work of some famous author.

Imagine your delight, for instance, if casually you picked up "a little brown baby with a pink string around its stomach," as Kipling called the docket-style "Departmental Ditties" with which he burst on the literary scene.

It might enable you to take a trip around the world.

★ ★ ★

The odds against such a piece of luck are considerable, perhaps greater than those of any sweepstake you ever tried. Book vendors nowadays are too canny to make mistakes when they put their culls on at a cut price; they'd never forgive themselves if they gave away a fortune for a dime. An auction room is apt to be more fruitful, really.

But the attic or the basement is the place to look, as an incident near Dumfries—of all places—made clear last week. That the discovery should occur on the eve of the bi-centenary of Robert Burns suggests, indeed, the hand of fate.

For it was a copy of the Kilmarnock first edition that came to light —at the instance of a schoolboy!

The Kilmarnock is the first printed collection of Burns' poems, published when he was about to emigrate to Jamaica; the book that revealed to the world the genius of a new poet. Only 612 copies were printed and all but nine — probably eight now—have been accounted for.

If ever you stumble on one of these remaining eight, you have a guiding star.

★ ★ ★

The discovery came when a young school teacher at Annan Academy was showing her class, as part of a lesson on Burns, a pamphlet with a photograph of the Kilmarnock edition. One of her pupils, a 14-year-old boy, told her he had a book "exactly the same" at home.

And sure enough he had. He came back in the afternoon with the blue paper-covered volume to set a stir all through the town where Burns is buried.

It was examined by Burnsian experts, of course, including the curator of the Burns House museum in Dumfries. They agreed it is "almost certainly" a genuine Kilmarnock first edition.

The book is now in a bank, safely secured while a firm of booksellers negotiates for its sale. And no wonder. One of the original 612 copies sold some years ago for about $7,000. The schoolboy won't have to worry about his university education.

But think of this treasure lying unhonored and unsung, as Sir Walter Scott might have said, in a household in Dumfriesshire, where the spirit of Burns still permeates the air and the bard is its greatest freeman.

And, the crowning irony surely, with its pages uncut! The "find" almost seems more than is deserved.

Gerald Waring

Reports from Ottawa

IF everybody works eight hours a day five days a week, a man suggested the other day, everybody can take a three-month vacation every year. With pay.

This person is an industrial relations counsellor. An expert, forsooth. The gimmick in his argument is that if Canadian working men are to get the 30-hour week advocated by the Canadian Labor Congress, they should take the 25 per cent cut in working hours in one lump sum. His "consolidated leisure plan," I believe he called it. Atop a regular two weeks' vacation, it would give a man a total of three months off once a year. The rest of the time he'd work a 40-hour week.

Having just broken off my leisurely 60-hour week schedule to start a gruelling six months at something like 72 hours weekly to cover the new session of Parliament, I am all for this plan. My wife is too. Says if we can consolidate my leisure in the next six months, maybe we can spend a weekend in Montreal.

However, it's just as well not to make Parliament privy to these enlightened labor practices. If the MPs put the squeeze on Dief for even a 40-hour week, then they'll need a full year to get their talking done. Be no time left for that three months' vacation. Or even a two weeks' one.

★ ★ ★

I hope you don't misunderstand me. I'm not trying to oppose labor's legitimate aspirations. If a 30-hour week or a nine-month year is what labor wants, then by all means let labor have it.

But at the same time let labor know that it has to pay for its extra leisure. Naturally the unions aren't going to accept a 25 per cent cut, or probably any cut at all, in wages as return for a 25 per cent cut in working hours. However, their members will pay just the same, in higher prices for the things they buy, reflecting a 25 per cent increase in labor costs. We'd all pay.

The economists and the politicians have been preaching for years about the danger of Canada developing a high cost economy, and pricing its goods out of world markets. With a 30-hour week, while our competitors work 48 or 60, we might as well close up our seaports. We wouldn't be able to sell abroad at the prices we'd have to ask, and we wouldn't have much foreign exchange with which to buy other countries' goods.

★ ★ ★

What with the resulting higher cost of things—which is just another way of saying the lower standard of living—we likely couldn't afford to do very much with our three-months' vacations anyway.

People would write furious letters to Dief. We always blame the government for our troubles. Otherwise we'd have no one to blame but ourselves. That's one reason we must always make sure we have a government.

And tariffs! Say, you've never seen a tariff until you see what we'd have to put up to protect our industries operating on a 30-hour-week basis.

In Australia they tried to isolate their economy; to insulate it against the ruinously low prices of competing goods made in low-cost Asian countries. The Australian working man insisted on having leisure to enjoy his climate and his beer. He got it —but he has to do without consumer durables we consider essential to modern living. You probably own a car. In Australia you probably would not.

Thus the consolidated leisure plan might solve our urban traffic problems for us. But I'd rather live with them, and consolidate my standard of living.

The Packsack

By GREGORY CLARK

HARDLY anybody can be bothered listening to a poor bewildered soul. Clergymen still do it. And in recent years the fairly new profession of psychiatrist has risen to meet what appears to be a need.

One psychiatrist told me frankly that while he can prescribe exactly in the sense that other physicians prescribe, a very considerable part of his function is to listen to people to whom nobody else will listen, or to those who have no one else in whom to confide.

"Actually," he said, "as recently as only one generation ago there were all kinds of people in every family connection and every circle of acquaintances who were prepared to listen even to the most tiresome of confused people. But so great has been the increase in entertainment of all kinds, and in pleasurable diversion of every description that few nowadays have the patience to listen to the troubles of others. They prefer soap operas."

One of my war comrades fell upon evil days, one disaster after another hounding him to the verge of a breakdown. His parson lost patience with him. He went to a psychiatrist. After a few visits, he came to see me, entirely cured.

"Do you know," he cried, "what that son of a gun tried to do to me? He tried to explain me to myself. He tried to explain all my family and friends to me. And even my enemies. By golly, what an awful world it would be if we understood not only all others, but ourselves!"

He was cured. He is happy to live now amid the mystery and tragedy of life.

Fun, Fact and Fiction

"Would you mind repeating to me what you just said?" the psychiatrist said to his patient softly.

"I said," the man yelled, "that for some reason or other nobody seems to like me. Why don't you listen, you fathead!"

According to the Federation of American Scientists, there are now enough nuclear bombs stockpiled to destroy the entire human race. So the next war will be one in which we won't have to worry about any difficult period of postwar readjustment.

Washington Angle

Inflation or Discipline?

By DAVID LAWRENCE

THEY have argued about such technical things as senate rules and are preparing to talk about spending more money to send a man to the moon, but there are no signs that Congress is ready as yet to come to grips with the down-to-earth problem which affects the well-being of millions of Americans —inflation.

Until the American people are thoroughly aroused to the crisis that faces them in the present Congress, the emphasis will still be on secondary matters. President Eisenhower puts the case in unequivocal words as follows:

"We must avoid any contribution to inflationary processes, which could disrupt sound growth in our economy.

"Prices have displayed a welcome stability in recent months and, if we are wise and resolute, we will not tolerate inflation in the years to come. But history makes clear the risks inherent in any failure to deal firmly with the basic causes of inflation. Two of the most important of these causes are the wage-price spiral and continued deficit financing.

★ ★ ★

"Inflation would reduce job opportunities, price us out of world markets, shrink the value of savings and penalize the thrift so essential to finance a growing economy.

"Inflation is not a Robin Hood, taking from the rich to give to the poor. Rather, it deals most cruelly with those who can least protect themselves. It strikes hardest those millions of our citizens whose incomes do not quickly rise with the cost of living, when prices soar, the pensioner and the widow see their security undermined, the man of thrift sees his savings melt away; the white collar worker, the minister, and the teacher see their standards of living dragged down.

"Inflation can be prevented. But this demands statesmanship on the part of business and labor leaders and of government at all levels. We must encourage the self-discipline, the restraint necessary to curb the wage-price spiral."

★ ★ ★

But will "self-discipline" materialize? What is really needed is courage in Congress. And there will not be action by Congress until there is a people's "lobby" bigger than the labor union lobby which, by its millions of dollars of contributions, buys the election of enough members of Congress to block remedial legislation.

The headlines have told about the corruption inside some big labor unions. Congress has not passed the necessary legislation to deal with the evil. Instead, many labor union leaders who are themselves honest are afraid the laws will be used in some way to hurt them. The cry is that there isn't any need to pass laws because there are only a few guilty ones. But there would be no criminal laws today if the doctrine were accepted that, because the offenders are a minority, no protective steps should be taken by the people against those offenders.

What is amazing is that, after the sensational disclosures last year, the labor unions won more elections for their candidates in Congress than ever before. The president pointed to these disclosures in his "state of the union" message:

"Last January I made comprehensive recommendations to the Congress for legislation in the labor-management field. To my disappointment, Congress failed to act. The McClellan committee disclosures of corruption, racketeering, and abuse of trust and power in labor-management affairs have aroused America and amazed other peoples. Its disclosures emphasize the need for improved local law enforcement and the enactment of effective federal legislation to protect the public interest and to insure the rights and economic freedoms of millions of American workers.

"Halfhearted measures will not do. I shall recommend prompt enactment of legislation designed to safeguard workers' funds in union treasuries against misuse of any kind whatsoever; to protect the rights and freedoms of individual union members, including the basic right to free and secret elections of officers; to advance true and responsible collective bargaining; to protect the public and innocent third parties from unfair and coercive practices such as boycotting and blackmail picketing."

★ ★ ★

But the president does not propose any cure for the biggest single virus—labor extortion at the bargaining table —that has really led to the strike fever in America. The threat of a steel strike this summer is already costing the country many billions in a frustration of planning for plant and equipment.

An economic war that is permitted to damage the public by billions of dollars a year and that keeps sending prices upward—to rob the people of their savings by devaluing the purchasing power of the dollar—needs more drastic action than the president has proposed.